

NWS Grand Junction, Colorado

September 2020

Climate Summary for Eastern Utah and Western Colorado

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A cold front finished moving across E UT/W CO at the beginning of September which saw some early season snow fall at the highest peaks. Temperatures cooled to below normal for a few days in the wake of this system before high pressure led to a drying and warming trend through the end of the first week. Labor Day weekend saw near record heat and critical fire weather conditions return to the area, as well as the return of smoke from the ongoing wildfires in the western U.S. Conditions changed a few days later as an abnormally strong and cold low pressure system dropped into the Four Corners region from September 8-10. This system produced widespread showers of rain in the lower elevations and snow in the mountains, though the cold front dropped snow levels to approximately 7000 feet. Record cold followed this system before a warming trend returned beginning September 11. High pressure generally remained in control through the end of the month with the warm and dry weather persisting. A few disturbances brushed the region which led to periodic critical fire weather conditions.

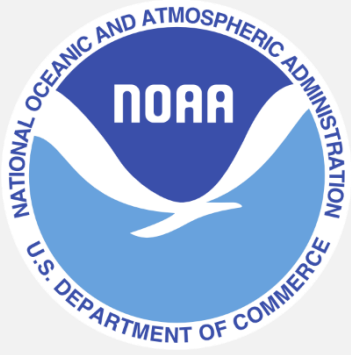
September was on average drier than normal across the region as 10 out of the 10 automated stations found at airports across eastern Utah and western Colorado ended the month with below normal precipitation. September was generally warmer than normal for most of the region with mean temperatures ranging anywhere from 1 to 3 degrees above normal.

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Please note that all data mentioned is collected from our automated observing stations from 10 different airports across eastern Utah and western Colorado. Some of our cooperative observers in more remote areas may have measured warmer or colder temperatures, or more or less precipitation than what was mentioned in this summary.

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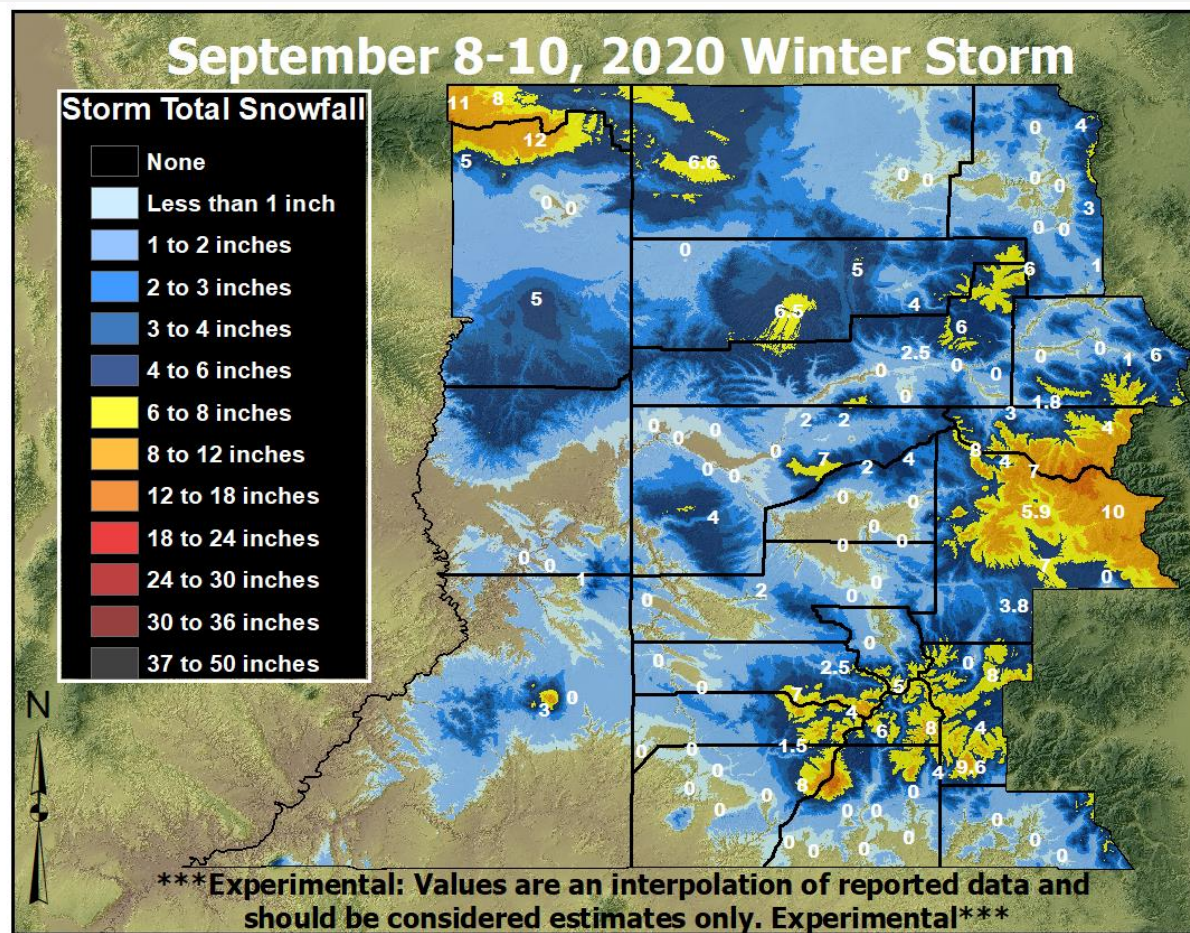




Story of the Month

8 – 10 SEPTEMBER WINTER STORM

An abnormally strong/cold low pressure system moved into the Four Corners region beginning September 8th. The low remained quasi-stationary for about a day before exiting by the evening of the 10th. This system produced widespread showers of rain in the lower elevations and snow in the mountains, though the cold front dropped snow levels to approximately 7000 feet. Generally 5 to 10 inches of snow fell in the mountains with up to 16 inches measured in the SW San Juans.



September 2020 Temperatures

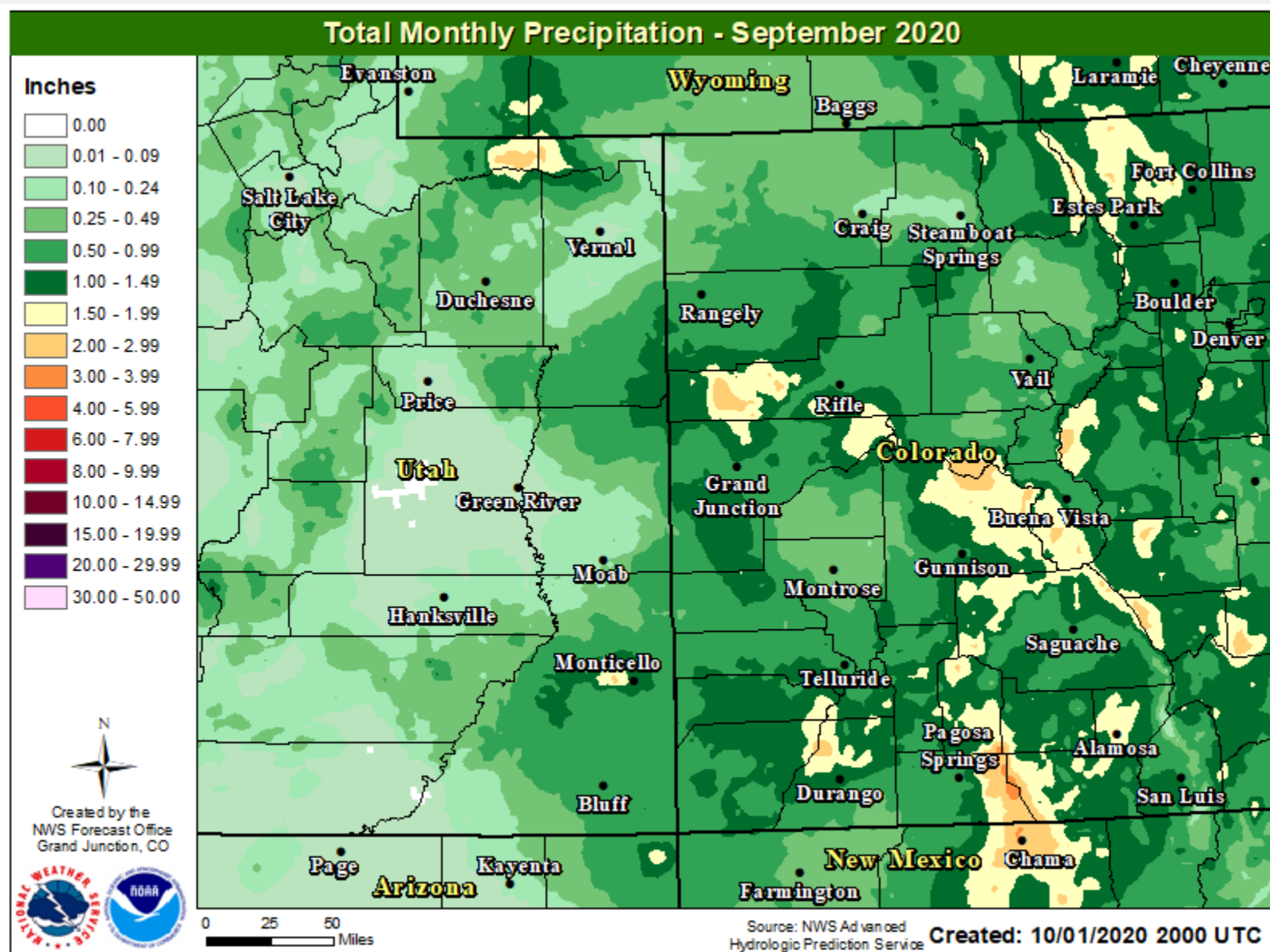
Location	Average Temp (°F) (Versus Normal)	Warmest Temp (°F)	Coldest Temp (°F)
Aspen, CO	56.4 (+3.1)	88 on 9/5	24 on 9/28
Cortez, CO	61.3 (+1.0)	97 on 9/5, 6	28 on 9/29
Craig, CO	55.5 (+0.0)	95 on 9/5, 6	20 on 9/28
Durango, CO	60.1 (+1.4)	93 on 9/6	30 on 9/29
Grand Junction, CO	66.9 (+0.8)	99 on 9/5, 6	39 on 9/8
Meeker, CO	56.0 (-0.7)	93 on 9/5	24 on 9/28, 29
Montrose, CO	63.0 (+0.8)	95 on 9/5	34 on 9/29
Rifle, CO	62.8 (+1.6)	99 on 9/5	32 on 9/28, 29
Canyonlands Airport, UT	68.2 (+1.1)	102 on 9/6	36 on 9/29
Vernal, UT	60.9 (+0.7)	96 on 9/5	32 on 9/8, 9

September 2020 Precipitation

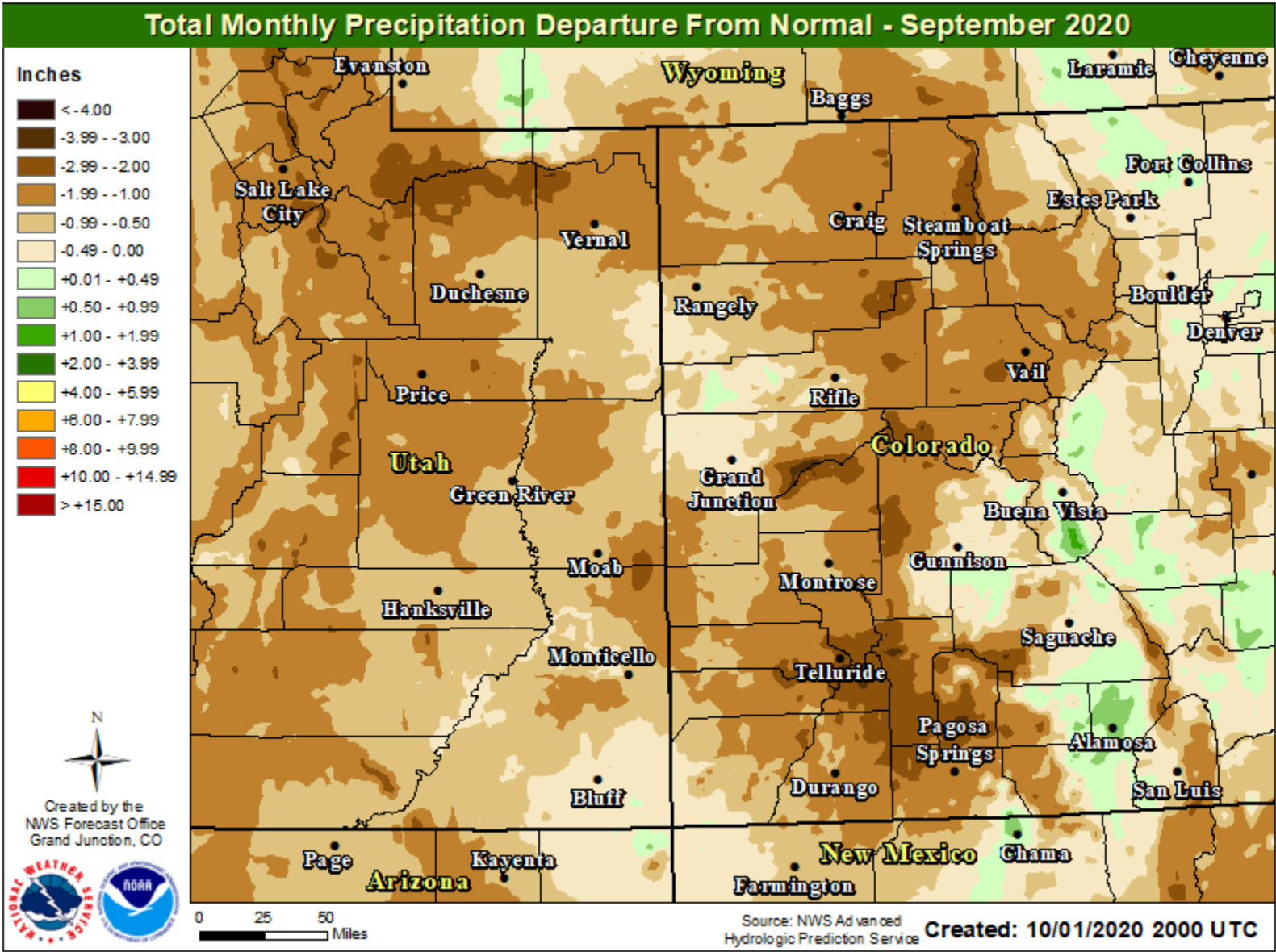
Location	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Aspen, CO	0.16	-1.66
Cortez, CO	0.94	-0.84
Craig, CO	0.34	-1.56
Durango, CO	0.43	-1.48
Grand Junction, CO	1.13	-0.06
Meeker, CO	1.05	-0.71
Montrose, CO	0.56	-0.76
Rifle, CO	0.99	-0.51
Canyonlands Airport, UT	0.13	-0.83
Vernal, UT	0.05	-1.03



Total Monthly Precipitation



Monthly Precipitation Departure from Normal



September Daily Record Reports

A total of 5 daily records were set across the primary climate sites. T stands for tied.

Site	Date	Record Type	New Record	Previous Record
Grand Junction, CO	Sept 5 th	High Max Temperature	99°	98° in 1899
Grand Junction, CO	Sept 6 th	High Max Temperature	99°	97° in 2019
Grand Junction, CO	Sept 8 th	Precipitation	0.88"	0.49" in 1929
Grand Junction, CO	Sept 9 th	Low Min Temperature	40° - T	40° in 2001
Grand Junction, CO	Sept 10 th	Low Min Temperature	42°	43° in 1962

High Max

Low Max

Precip

High Min

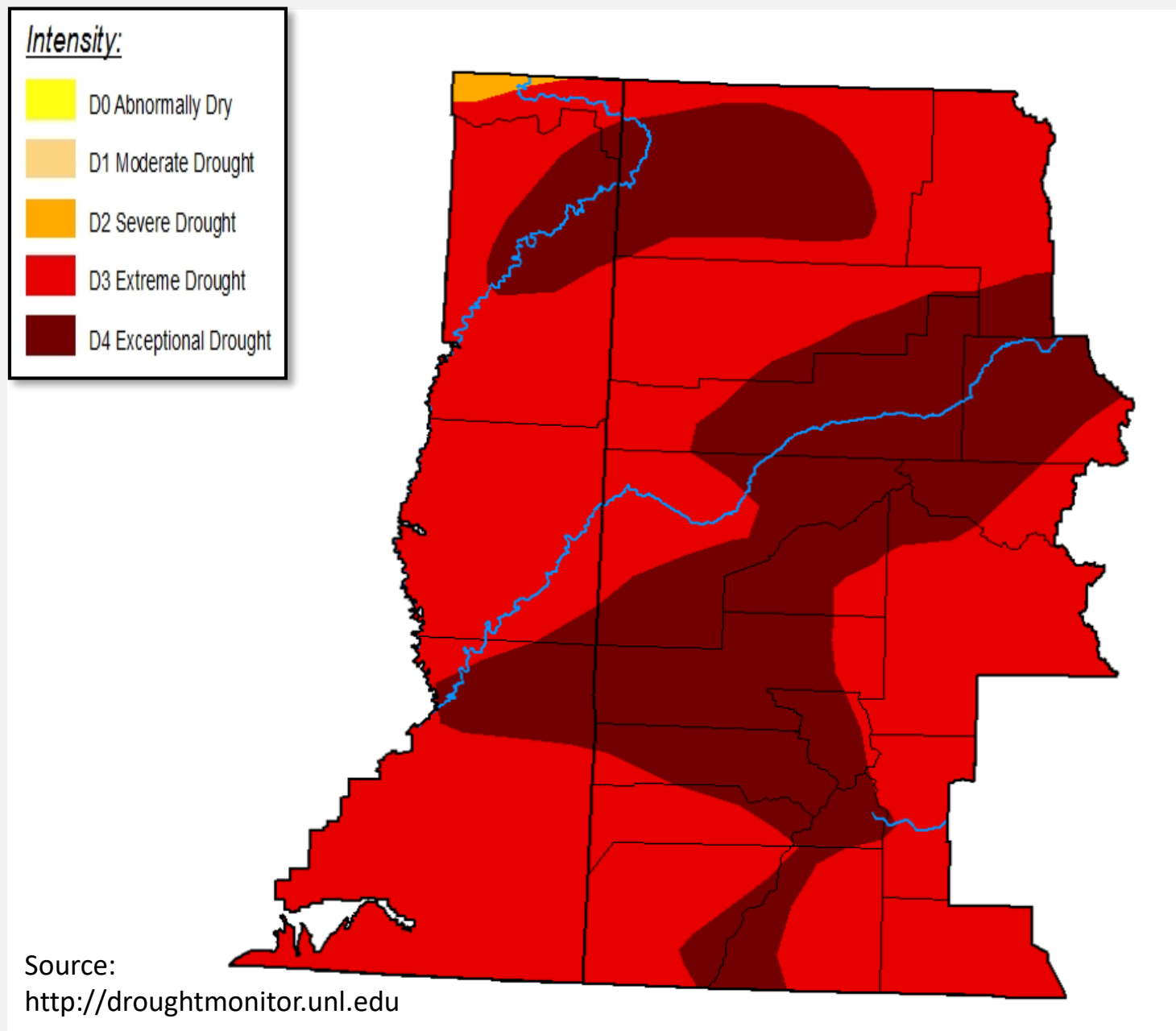
Low Min

Key



Drought Conditions as of October 15th

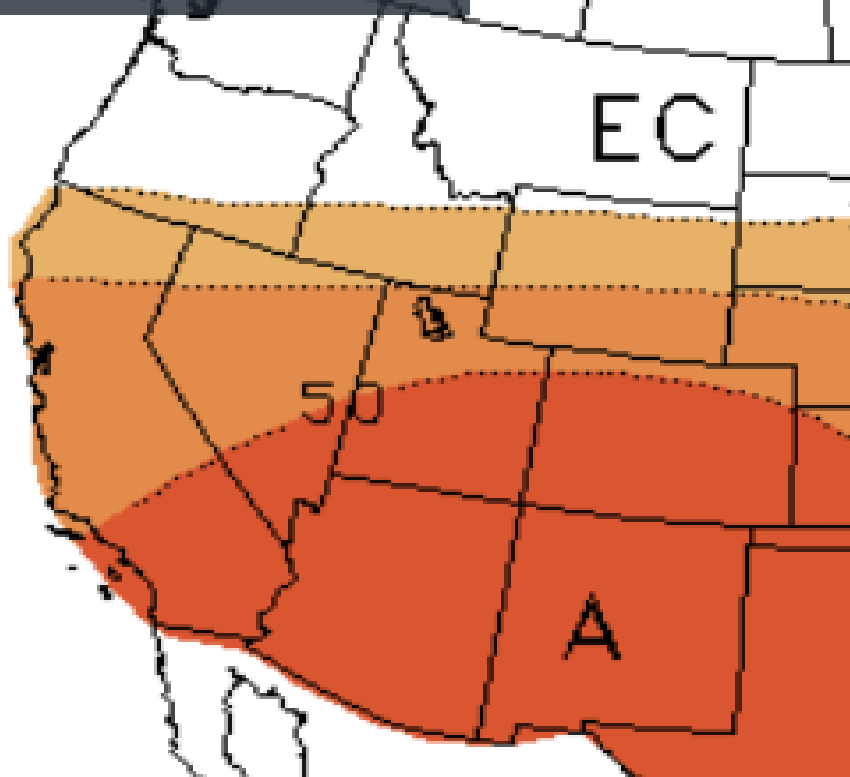
Extreme (D3) to exceptional (D4) conditions continued to expand across the majority of eastern Utah and western Colorado by the end of September. Meanwhile, severe (D2) drought conditions persisted across far northeast Utah.



October Outlook

For October, the latest outlook from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) shows odds favoring warmer than normal temperatures across all of eastern Utah and western Colorado and below normal precipitation.

Temperatures



Precipitation

